

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation the well-reasoned Office Action dated December 14, 2005 indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 17-20. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kondo (U.S. Patent No. 4,708,385). Claims 10 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MacDonald et al. (United States Patent No. 5,685,612).

Claims 10 and 12 have been amended to overcome the objections in Section 11 of the Office Action. Specifically, claim 10 has been amended to include at least one pin having a first portion that extends normally to the seat backs and a second portion angularly extending therefrom (claim 11). Claim 12 has been amended to depend from claim 10 instead of claim 11, which is cancelled by way of this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §102(b) and §103(a) rejections of claim 10. Applicant also requests withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections of claims 13-16 on the basis of dependency from allowable base claim 10.

Objections to Drawings

In Section 1 of the Office Action, the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference characters 47 and 96, as provided in the detailed description of the invention. Replacement drawing sheets for Fig-3 and Fig-4 are submitted herewith. Figure 3 now includes the reference numeral 47 indicating the slot. Figure 4 now includes the reference numeral 96 indicating the partition.

In Section 2, the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference characters 55 and 77 not mentioned in the detailed description of the invention. Applicant respectfully notes that 55 and 77, as shown in Fig-3, are described on page 7, lines 19-21 of the application, an "outer edge 55 of the cam 54 pivotally slidably contacts

an inner surface 77 of the cam 56 to lock the cam 56 into the default closed position, thus securing the seat back 12 to the base 22.”

In Sections 3 and 4, the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because the reference characters 98 and 100 have both been used to designate the first portion of the spool and the reference character 100 has been used to designate both the first and second portions of the spool. Applicant respectfully notes that in Fig-4, 98 and 100 generally indicate the first and second portions of the spool 84, respectively. With the addition of reference character 96 to indicate the partition, it should be readily clear that the first and second portions of the spool 84 are generally indicated by the reference characters 98 and 100, respectively.

Conclusion

From the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that claims 1-10 and 12-20 of the present application embody patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that such action toward these ends be taken.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

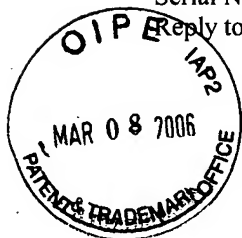
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